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TOP SECRET/CODEWORD

November 10, 1971

PRESIDENT'S THURSDAY BRIEFING

For President

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

MORI/CDF C01480407

Indo-Pak Border Incidents

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Our intelligence confirms that the Indians have sent up to two battalions (some 2,000 men) about 1,000 yards across the border into the eastern side of East Pakistan at Kamalpur since October 30 to silence Pakistani artillery which the Indians claim had been shelling their positions. We also know that, after fairly heavy fighting with the Paks (probably over 100 casualties on both sides), the Indians dug in and expected to be relieved by Mukhti Bahini (guerrilla) "regular" troops on November 8. Since there is a time lag in our intelligence, we cannot be sure whether or not this replacement has actually taken place or whether these Indian troops are still on Pak territory. This is the only Indian incursion that we can confirm, but the Pakistani press has reported the use of Indian regulars several times, including an alleged attack yesterday on the eastern border supported by armor and artillery.

Thus the level of hostilities increases. Although neither side seems likely to declare war or initiate large-scale hostilities on either border in the immediate future, it is very possible that a developing pattern of escalating tit-for-tat military actions could lead to that result. Sisco spoke to Ambassadors Jha and Raza (the new Pakistani) yesterday, urging de-escalation.

*LAHacked to Hoskinson to HAR, 11 Nov, 1971*

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